



**Name of Project:** Loaves and Fishes

**Name of Organization:** Loaves and Fishes, Portland, Oregon

**Principle of Choices for Independence:** Evidence-Based Prevention and Wellness

### **Description**

Loaves and Fishes is the largest senior nutrition project in the national aging services network. Since 1970 their vision has been that “no senior will go hungry or experience social isolation.” The objective of Loaves and Fishes is to develop complete community participation and have public and private partners who care about and support this nutrition program for all older persons over the age of 60 in Southwest Washington and Northwest Oregon, with emphasis in the Portland area and the multiple counties that surround it.

There are over 31 sites and more than 4,000 meals served daily, including meals on weekends, using 400 volunteers daily. A new kitchen, contributed by the local and national business companies and corporations of Portland, will be used for declared disasters and can provide up to 25,000 meals per day. The unique meals are restaurant-style selection with home-cooked tastes, offering a wide daily selection that includes ethnic meals for the large Hispanic and Asian populations.

Loaves and Fishes uses access transportation services, gives a wide choice for self determination and independence, allows for all persons from every community to have quality in the participation and be able to appreciate the benefits provided to them.

Key partners for Loaves and Fishes are local restaurants, restaurant chains, grocery stores, department stores, manufacturers, distributors, schools (public and private), utility companies, companies that are headquarters based in Portland such as Nike, major foundations such as Gates Foundation, Paul Allen Foundation, and major sports organizations such as the Portland Trail Blazers and others. The level of community participation in Loaves and Fishes is extremely high. For example, when Loaves and Fishes needed volunteers during some of its special efforts, Nike Headquarters in Portland released numerous employees with pay during working hours to volunteer at the nutrition program. This program has 8,000 volunteers which add to the success of the program. When there is a weather or other-related threat to the program to serve people, help comes from every part of the community.

Loaves and Fishes is making plans for the inclusion of baby boomers, anticipating that some day in the future they will serve their current kitchen-space limit of up to 25,000

meals per day. For more information about Loaves and Fishes, please visit <http://www.loavesandfishesonline.org> or contact Joan Smith at 503-736-6325.